

alternative to the few marine and estuarine species in mariculture. While working on the aquaculture prospects and seed resources of Green Mussel *Perna viridis* Linnaeus, an abundant species on both the west and east coasts of India, the authors came across a new mussel *Perna indica* in Amadalli, about 18 km south of Karwar in Karnataka. (Photographic evidence given –Eds).

Perna indica Kuriakose and Nair 1976 is popularly known as Brown Mussel. It has a restricted distribution along the southwest coast of India from Cape Camorin to Tiruchendur. Important centres where dense populations are found include Cape Camorin, Colachal, Muttom, Poovar, Vizhinjam, Kovalam, Varakala and Quilon. The present discovery extends its distribution northwards into the Karnataka coast. The specimens were collected from the intertidal rocky shore to shallow water up to 5-8 m depth towards leeward as well as seaward sides, attached to large expanse of rocky bed. Abundant seeds could be seen in

association with *Perna viridis* and *Modiolus* sp. attached to rocks amid weeds, algae, barnacles and polychaete worm tubes. It is probable that the mussel accidentally reached this place, and established itself, as evident from the small population and isolated location. This finding is significant in view of its food value and culture prospects.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude Shri S.C. Mitra, Officer-in-Charge, Molluscan Section, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata; Dr. P. Parameshwaran Pillai, Officer-in-Charge and Dr. M.K. Anil, Scientist, Marine Fisheries Division CMFRI, Vizhinjam for confirming the identification.

December 18, 2002

V.N. NAYAK

R. DURGA

Department of Marine Biology,
Karnataka University Post Graduate Centre,
Kodibag, Karwar 581 303, Karnataka,
India.

REFERENCES

KURIAKOSE, P.S. & N.B. NAIR (1976): The genus *Perna* along the coast of India with description of a new species *Perna indica*. *Aquatic Biol.* 1: 25-36.

32. *HYBANTHUS ENNEASPERMUS* (L.) F. MUELL — AN ADDITION TO THE WEED FLORA OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

The genus *Hybanthus* Jacq. has about 150 species distributed from tropical to sub-tropical regions of the world (Mabberley 1998). In India, it is represented by two species, namely *H. enneaspermus* (L.) F. Muell. and *H. travancoricus* (Bedd.) Melch. (Banerjee and Pramanik 1993). *H. enneaspermus*, a common weed in India, has been collected for the first time from Andamans. It forms an addition to the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and a new generic record for the Islands.

For description see the references in the following citations:

Hybanthus enneaspermus (L.) F. Muell. *Fragm. Phyt. Austr.* 10: 81. 1976; Banerjee & Pramanik in Sharma *et al.* *Fl. India* 2: 343. 1993; Wadhwa & Weera sooriya in Dassanayake *et al.* *Rev. Hand. Fl. Ceylon* 10: 419. 1996. *Viola enneasperma* L. *Sp. Pl.* 2: 937. 1753.

Fl. & Fr.: September to January.

Ecology: Grows as weed near irrigation canals in

wastelands and wet, open fields.

Specimen examined: INDIA. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, North Andaman, Fields near Kalpong Botanic Garden, 16.xi.2001. V.M. Radhakrishnan, 18725 (PBL).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to Dr. M. Sanjappa, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata for providing facilities and Dr. P.V. Sreekumar, Scientist 'SD', Botanical Survey of India, Port Blair, for encouragement.

January 22, 2003

V.M. RADHAKRISHNAN

R. SUMATHI

J. JAYANTHI

Botanical Survey of India,
Horticulture Road, Haddo Post,
Port Blair 744 102,
Andaman and Nicobar, India.

REFERENCES

- BANERJEE, S.P. & B.B. PRAMANIK (1993): *Violaceae*. Pp. 343-344 *In*: Flora of India 2. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.
MABBERLEY, D.J. (1998): *The Plant – Book* (2nd edn). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
WADHWA, B.M. & WEERA SOORIYA (1996): *Violaceae*. Pp. 419-421. *In*: Revised Handbook of the Flora of Ceylon. 10. Oxford & IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.